

21 June 1976

MEMO FOR: Mr. George S. Springsteen, Jr.  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
and Executive Secretary  
Department of State

On 5 June Mr. Bush handcarried the attached report to the White House for the Secretary and General Scowcroft. I am told that the latter was to flag it for the Secretary's attention. Presume he did, but you may want the attached for future reference in the Secretary's office.



Executive Secretary

Attachment

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76-2399/4

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

17 June 1976

Ben,

This is the unsigned, undated  
(possibly unread) memo about  
which we talked today.



Rob Roy Ratliff

Rec'd by S/ES on 6/17/76

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# CIA Study Finds Shah Insecure

By Jack Anderson  
and Les Whitten

The Central Intelligence Agency has compiled a disturbing psychological profile of the shah of Iran, whom the United States is building up to be the guardian of its interests in the Persian Gulf.

This secret study portrays the shah as a brilliant but dangerous megalomaniac, who is likely to pursue his own aims in disregard of U.S. interests.

Already, he has pushed harder than any other oil potentate for stratospheric oil prices. Yet Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has overlooked the economic damage this has caused and has courted him obsequiously.

With huge arms shipments and technical aid, the United States is helping the shah transform Iran into a world power. The purpose is to assure that the fabulous oil fields of the Persian Gulf remain under friendly domination.

Yet the psychological study suggests that the shah is an uncertain ally. His dreams of glory, apparently, exceed his ability to finance them. When his oil revenues run out in an estimated two decades, he might use his new military power to seize some neighboring fields.

All of this is strongly implied in the CIA profile, which traces the shah's psychological problems to three sources—(1) an overbearing father, (2) the humiliation of serving at first as a puppet ruler, and (3) his inability for years to produce a male heir to the Peacock Throne.

The shah's father began his career as an illiterate soldier and battered his way to the throne. Possessed of an explosive Cossack temperament, he was known to slay dogs that dared bark in his presence, to hurl offending subordinates bodily through windows and to stamp up enemies by their heels and kick in their teeth.

He had little patience with his son, who had grown to age 10 without a single word of praise. One time, the old man came upon the boy standing beside a palace pool. The father asked the boy what he was doing. "Thinking," replied the crown prince, whereupon his fa-

ther uttered a roaring curse and booted his heir into the pool.

By contrast, a twin sister, Princess Ashraf, is a forceful, aggressive, vivacious woman quick to slap the face of anyone who displeases her. "It's too bad she was not the boy," the old shah used to muse.

During World War II, the elder shah demonstrated an unfortunate preference for the Nazis. This encouraged the British and Russians to occupy Iran in 1941. They deposed him and deposited his 21-year-old son on the throne.

For the next 12 years, the young shah was no more than a figurehead. His ministers, fearing permanent occupation by the British and Russians, invited the Americans in. U.S. officials temporarily ran the country while the shah spent his days riding horses, flying planes, speeding around in fast cars and chasing women.

But on the throne, he was a weak, retiring personality. When his appendix was removed in the early 1950s, Westerners in Tehran joked that "now the shah has no guts at all."

The shah, according to the

CIA profile, never got over his lack of royal lineage and the ignominy of being a puppet monarch. His resentment toward the West gradually hardened into a bitter determination to "show them."

But he was still a weakling in the early 1950s as Premier Mohammed Mosadeq grew in power and began leading Iran on a leftward course. The shah ducked out on the showdown and chartered a plane for Rome. While he was safely ensconced in the Excelsior Hotel, the CIA rescued his throne.

The news was brought to him, according to an eyewitness account, while he was dining at the Excelsior. The shah turned pale and looked as if he would faint. "In that case," he finally murmured, "the empress and I will go home as quickly as possible." He returned 12 pounds lighter, with prematurely gray hair.

Another problem that plagued the shah for two decades was his failure to produce a son. His first marriage to Princess Fawzia, sister of Egypt's King Farouk, was unhappy. Born into luxury, she became bored with the provincial city of

Tehran and longed for the swinging social soirees of Cairo.

When no son was born, according to the CIA profile, Fawzia ridiculed and humiliated the shah by accusing him of impotence. He divorced her in 1948, after nine years of marriage.

Queen Soraya, wife No. 2, tried for seven years to produce an heir for the shah. The couple finally checked into New York's Presbyterian Medical Center for examination. They were pronounced healthy. Still no son came. In 1953, they were divorced.

The shah's long search for a son ended after he married Farah Diba, daughter of a wealthy Iranian. She gave him an heir, Crown Prince Reza.

CIA psychologists believe that all these elements—his cruel father, his years as a pawn of the West, his undistinguished lineage, his fear of impotence—contributed to an enormous inferiority complex.

Now this insecure man, showered with oil billions and bolstered by the United States, is determined to show the world, the psychologists suggest,

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Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

## Torture, Terror in Iran

The Shah of Iran, as his contribution to the U.S. bicentennial celebration, flew 150 celebrities to Iran for a week of partying.

The bicentennial visitors, including Elizabeth Taylor and Baroness Garnett Stackelberg, arrived aboard one of the Shah's 747 superjets.

They were wine, dined and entertained in a splendor that rivaled the excesses of Xerxes. By day, they were chauffeured to Iran's assorted ruins and festivals. By night, they drank champagne and watched belly dancers.

None was invited, of course, to see Iran's seamier side. But behind all the glitter, the Shah rules by torture and terror, which are the antithesis of the U.S. principles he pretends to honor.

The language of Iran's constitution is as eloquent as the Declaration of Independence. But it contains a grim Catch 22; a clause states that Iran's bill of rights is granted only in conformity with the law. The law has come to mean whatever the Shah determines it is.

We have received documented complaints of the Shah's oppression. Under his tutelage, the SAVAK secret police have become increasingly harsh and cruel. The secret police answer only to the Shah who, in turn, has become more and more dependent upon them to keep him in power.

Intelligence reports claim that his authoritarian rule and imperial airs are alienating his people, that he is dangerously isolated and aloof.

The bicentennial luxury tour almost coincided, ironically, with the completion of a study by two world-renowned lawyers. They are William Butler of the New York Bar Association's Human Rights Commission and Professor Georges Levasseur of the University of Paris. Instead of taking an expenses-paid junket to the panoplies of Persepolis, they tried to find out about conditions in the Shah's prisons. Their study will be made public in a few days.

"There can be no doubt that torture

has been systematically practiced over a number of years against recalcitrant suspects," Butler reports in his section of the study.

He identifies the torturers as members of SAVAK, which "is accountable to no one except the Shah" and, therefore, has become "a law unto itself."

Butler's most sickening information came from a courageous Iranian poet, Reza Baraheni, who at great personal risk furnished a statement on his own observations in a SAVAK dungeon. He was "beaten, whipped and exposed to the sounds of screaming prisoners."

From his own experiences and talks with other inmates, the poet described how prisoners were lashed to the top of an iron, double-deck bed, which was transformed into a human toaster. They were also questioned by agents applying and electric baton to the genitals, he reported.

The horror is compounded by these additional, startling revelations:

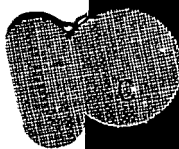
For SAVAK victims, there is no judicial appeal. SAVAK officers actually have "the power to act as 'military magistrates,' with the right to detain prisoners as long as they wish."

The SAVAK secret police, 200,000 strong, have been "expertly trained by the Israeli Secret Service, the Central Intelligence Agency and Agency for International Development agents," reports the study.

The SAVAK doesn't restrict its activities to Iran but allegedly operates in other lands, including the United States. Charges Butler, SAVAK "operates throughout the world where Iranian students congregate and where Iran may have a national interest."

Footnote: The study finds improvements in Iran's women's rights, health, education and the economy. U.S. and Israeli spokesmen acknowledge that their governments train Iranians but deny teaching torture or other extra-legal practices. Iranian officials insist the study's charges of torture and terror are "unfounded."

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